

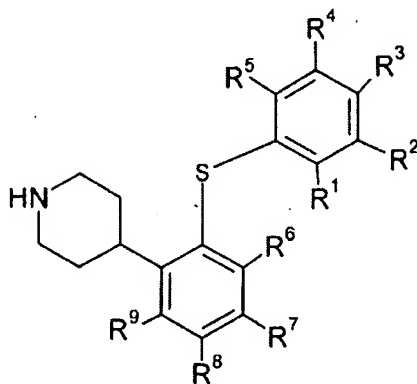
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 38-52. (Cancelled)

Claim 53. (New) A compound of formula I:



wherein,

R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, cyano, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₁₋₆-alkyloxy, C₂₋₆-alkenyloxy, C₂₋₆-alkynyloxy, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfanyl, C₂₋₆-alkenylsulfanyl, C₂₋₆-alkynylsulfanyl, hydroxy, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₂₋₆-alkenyl, hydroxy-C₂₋₆-alkynyl, halo-C₁₋₆-alkyl, halo-C₂₋₆-alkenyl, halo-C₂₋₆-alkynyl, halo-C₁₋₆-alkyloxy, halo-C₂₋₆-alkenyloxy, halo-C₂₋₆-alkynyloxy, or NR^xR^y, wherein R^x and R^y are independently selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₂₋₆-

alkynyl, cyano-C₁₋₆-alkyl, cyano-C₂₋₆-alkenyl, cyano-C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₂₋₆-alkynyl, or NR^zR^w-C₁₋₆-alkyl, NR^zR^w-C₂₋₆-alkenyl, NR^zR^w-C₂₋₆-alkynyl, wherein R^z and R^w are independently selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl, or C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₂₋₆-alkynyl; or R^x and R^y together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 3-7-membered ring which optionally contains one further heteroatom;

R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₁₋₆-alkyloxy, C₂₋₆-alkenyloxy, C₂₋₆-alkynyloxy, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfanyl, C₂₋₆-alkenylsulfanyl, C₂₋₆-alkynylsulfanyl, hydroxy, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₂₋₆-alkenyl, hydroxy-C₂₋₆-alkynyl, halo-C₁₋₆-alkyl, halo-C₂₋₆-alkenyl, halo-C₂₋₆-alkynyl, halo-C₁₋₆-alkyloxy, halo-C₂₋₆-alkenyloxy, halo-C₂₋₆-alkynyloxy, or NR^xR^y, wherein R^x and R^y are independently selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₂₋₆-alkynyl, cyano-C₁₋₆-alkyl, cyano-C₂₋₆-alkenyl, cyano-C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₂₋₆-alkynyl, or NR^zR^w-C₁₋₆-alkyl, NR^zR^w-C₂₋₆-alkenyl, NR^zR^w-C₂₋₆-alkynyl, wherein R^z and R^w are independently selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₂₋₆-alkynyl; or R^x and R^y together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 3-7-membered ring which optionally contains one further heteroatom;

provided that at least two of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, and R⁹ are different from hydrogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 54. (New) The compound of claim 53, wherein R¹ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy or halogen.

Claim 55. (New) The compound of claim 53, wherein R² is hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, halogen, or C₁₋₆-alkyl.

Claim 56. (New) The compound of claim 53, wherein R³ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, or halogen.

Claim 57. (New) The compound of claim 53, wherein R⁴ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, halogen, or C₁₋₆-alkyl.

Claim 58. (New) The compound of claim 53, wherein R⁵ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy or halogen.

Claim 59. (New) The compound of claim 53, wherein R⁶ is hydrogen or halogen.

Claim 60. (New) The compound of claim 53, wherein R⁷ is hydrogen or halogen.

Claim 61. (New) The compound of claim 53, wherein R⁸ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, halo-C₁₋₆-alkyl, or halogen.

Claim 62. (New) The compound of claim 53, wherein R⁹ is hydrogen or halogen.

Claim 63. (New) The compound of claim 53, wherein the compound of formula I has 3-4 substituents in the phenyl ring(s), selected from any one of R¹-R⁹, which are different from hydrogen, and the remaining substituents are hydrogen.

Claim 64. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 53 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 65. (New) A method of treating an affective disorder in a patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 53 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to said patient.

Claim 66. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein said affective disorder is depression.

Claim 67. (New) A method of treating an anxiety disorder in a patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 53 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to said patient.

Claim 68. (New) The method of claim 67, wherein said anxiety disorder is selected from the group consisting of general anxiety disorder, social anxiety disorder, post traumatic stress disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, panic disorder, panic attacks, specific phobias, social phobia and agoraphobia.